

CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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June 2, 1997

Christopher D. Williams, Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
P. O. Box 667
San Andreas, CA 95249

Dear Mr. Williams:

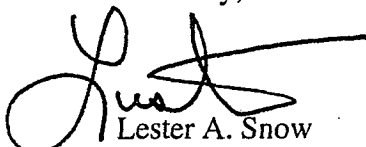
Thank you for your letter of May 12, 1997 regarding your objections to CALFED's priority ranking of storage options for CALFED surface storage components. That priority ranking ranked new on-stream storage facilities last, with expanded on-stream storage next to last in desirability. I recognize your concern, in that with limited groundwater opportunities, on-stream surface storage facilities may offer the most cost-effective approach to addressing your future water supply needs.

I wish to emphasize that the priority ranking has served as a useful shorthand which generally reflects the relative impacts of various storage options. While it is generally true that off-stream storage options often offer opportunities for reducing environmental impacts, particularly to riverine and aquatic resources, the screening process must consider each storage component on its individual merits.

CALFED has initiated a storage component screening process, consistent with NEPA, CEQA, and Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) requirements. A multi-disciplinary interagency team has been charged with the task of drafting the initial screen documentation, which will be circulated for review and comment to CALFED agencies and stakeholders for further review and comment. Evaluation criteria fall into the main categories of practicability (cost, engineering, and hydrology) and environmental impacts (all significant resource issues).

I believe that the evaluation process which we have established addresses your concerns regarding regulatory compliance and fairness, and I look forward to your input when the draft evaluation documents are circulated for review and comment. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sergio Guillen at (916) 653-3072.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

ready file

June 3, 1997

Mr. John L. Winther, President
Delta Wetlands
3697 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, California 94549

Dear John:

Thank you for providing the modeling results for the Georgiana Slough hydraulic barrier concept, based on a distributed, individually screened intake system. The hydraulic barrier concept may offer a feasible alternative, which coupled with closure of the Delta Cross Channel, could significantly reduce diversion of out migrating salmonids from the Sacramento River into the Central Delta. We will give this concept additional attention in the coming months, with particular emphasis on potential fisheries impacts and benefits.

I also appreciate your willingness to share information regarding the Delta Wetlands Project as well as your productive engagement in the CALFED solution-finding process. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to call me at (916) 653-6628.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Stein Buer, Assistant Deputy Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

bcc: Bellory Fong
Ron Ott
Darryl Hayes
Steve Yaeger
Marco Bell
Mark Cowin

SBuer:PBudzinski

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